

PATENT APPLICATION  
4115-131**In the Claims:**

1. (Previously presented) An isolated polypeptide that induces cell death *in vitro*, consisting of SEQ ID NO: 8.
2. (Currently amended) A composition comprising an isolated polypeptide as of claim 1 and a ~~pharmaceutically acceptable carrier thereof~~.
3. - 12 (Cancelled)
13. (Withdrawn) An *in vitro*-method for screening a compound to determine its utility for reducing cell death as a therapeutic agent for treatment of diseases associated with increased cell death, the method comprising:
  - (a) contacting a cell which expresses a protein consisting essentially of SEQ ID NO: 8 with the test compound; and
  - (b) determining the level of cell death relative to the level caused by SEQ ID NO: 8 alone, wherein a decrease in cell death activity identifies a compound that reduces cell death.
14. - 19. (Cancelled)
20. (Previously presented) An isolated variant of SEQ ID NO. 8, wherein the variant is characterized by
  - (1) at least 95% identity to SEQ. ID NO. 8,
  - (2) a conserved carboxy end region having an amino acid sequence of amino acid residues 353 to 405 of SEQ ID NO. 8,
  - (3) conservative changes in any amino acid substitutions and
  - (4) induces cell death *in vitro*.
21. (Withdrawn) A method for inducing cell death *in vitro*, the method comprising contacting the cell with an isolated polypeptide consisting essentially of SEQ ID NO. 8 or variants thereof, wherein the variants are characterized by having (1) at least 95% identity to SEQ. ID NO. 8, (2) a conserved carboxy

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end region having an amino acid sequence of amino acid residues 353-405 of SEQ ID NO. 8 and in a sufficient amount to induce cell death.

22. (Cancelled).

23. (Withdrawn) A method of generating an antibody, comprising:

(a) introducing an isolated polypeptide of claim 1 into an immunocompetent animal in an amount sufficient to induce an immune response; and

(b) recovering from serum of the immunocompetent animal antibodies generated in response to the polypeptide of step (a) and that bind therewith.

24.-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously presented) An isolated polypeptide that induces cell death *in vitro* comprising SEQ ID NO: 8.

27. (Currently amended) A composition comprising an isolated polypeptide as of claim 26 and a ~~pharmaceutically acceptable~~ carrier thereof.

28. (Previously presented) An isolated variant of the polypeptide of claim 26, wherein the variant is characterized by

- (1) at least 95 % identity to SEQ. ID NO. 8, and
- (2) conservative changes in amino acid substitutions and
- (3) induces cell death *in vitro*.

29. (Withdrawn) A method for inducing cell death *in vitro*, the method comprising contacting the cell with an isolated polypeptide according to claim 26 in a sufficient amount to effect an increase in cell death.

30. (Withdrawn) A method of generating an antibody, comprising:

(a) introducing an isolated polypeptide of claim 26 into an immunocompetent animal in an amount sufficient to induce an immune response; and

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(b) recovering from serum of the immunocompetent animal antibodies generated in response to the polypeptide of step (a) and that bind therewith.

31. (Withdrawn) An *in vitro* method for screening a test compound to determine its utility for reducing cell death as a therapeutic agent for treatment of diseases associated with increased cell death, the method comprising:

(a) contacting a cell which expresses the polypeptide of claim 26 with the test compound; and

(b) determining the level of cell death relative to the level caused by SEQ ID NO: 8 alone, wherein a decrease in cell death identifies a compound that does not induce cell death.

32. (Withdrawn) A method for inducing cell death *in vitro*, the method comprising contacting the cell with an isolated polypeptide consisting of SEQ ID NO. 8 in a sufficient amount to induce cell death.

33. (Cancelled)